

**Andrew Jackson to Robert Hays, December 16, 1796,  
from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by  
John Spencer Bassett.**

1 Copy.

Philadelphia, [December 16, 1796.]

*Dear Col.* , The enclosed paper will perhaps shew you in some degree the present situation of things between france and america. You will find that the answer to the presidents speech Introduced Considerable Debate, which was accompanied with a Considerable degree of Warmth between the Two parties, (I mean those who wish to continue in friendship with the french nation, and those who wish as they say to support the honor and Dignity of the nation). since last Session the situation of America has Changed. those who voted against the Treaty 2 are now for peace, those who were then sounding the horrors of war which they advanced would be inevitable in case the Treaty was not carried into effect are now for supporting the honor and Dignity of the nation, which plainly Indicates their wish to Cultivate a close friendship with Britain

2 Jay's treaty.

at the Expense of a war with the French Republick. It is Evident and every day's paper proves the fact that the British are daily Capturing our vessels, impressing our seamen and Treating them with the utmost severity and brutality, but from the presidents speech it would seem that the British were doing us no injury, Committing no Depredations, that all the Depredations on our Commerce was done by the French nation when on the Contrary from the Best Calculation that can be made the British Capture 20 to one.

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I cannot omit observing that our present situation with France is very delicate. the functions of the French minister is suspended, and the Convention by a Decree has Declared that they will treat Neutral flags in the same manner that Neutral flags suffers themselves to be treated by Great Britain which has been officially Transmitted through their minister to our Secretary of State which has been answered by our Secretary and reanswered by the French Minister, which is to be his last official act until the present Conduct of America (as he says) change with Respect to France. I would be happy to Transmit those papers to you and to my fellow Citizens for your and their Information but they are published in a pamphlet 3 and Cannot be Conveyed.

*3 Notes from Citizen Adet, Minister Plenipotentiary of the French Republic near the United States of America, to the Secretary of State of the United States , etc. (Philadelphia, 1796).*

Mr. Thomas Pain has lately addressed himself to the president, by private Letter, perhaps one of the most severe things that ever was written. 4 he states a number of facts, but there is a Mr. Dwite that is still more severe. I will Transmit you under cover Mr. Pains letter for your perusal, and Mr. Saml. Donelson's and those of my friends who may wish to read it.

*4 Letter to George Washington on Affairs Public and Private (Philadelphia, 1796).*

The Business relative to the pay of militia under Sevier and Nicajack will be brought before the house tomorrow next week. 5 what may be the result as yet I cannot determine, but you may assure my fellow-Citizens that when those Claims are acted upon they shall have the Earliest information, and those claims I will always keep in View until I have a decision upon them.

5 Dec. 26 the Speaker laid before the House a report from the Secretary of War on a petition of Hugh L. White respecting pay for this expedition of the summer and autumn

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of 1793. Dec. 30 it was referred to a special committee of which Jackson was made chairman, and which reported favorably Jan. 17, 1797; see vol. I., pp. 25–27. Feb. 14 the House resolved that the claim should be paid, and provision for it was made in the appropriation act of Mar. 3, 1797, ch. 17.

I find I will have but little time to write having all the business of the state to attend to in the house of Representatives, but you may assure my fellow Citizens that I will write them when ever a Leisure moment occurs. this will be a short Session and the house is now crowded with business and so many spouters, that take up a great deal of time. when you peruse those papers enclosed will thank you to Let my Nashville friends have the perusal of them.

I find I cannot Command any money for [from] Mr. Allison, nay worse, I am called upon for the amount of his note I endorsed to John B. Evans. he tells me he will lift the note but never has made an effort. Governor Blount promised to have it lifted, but has failed. I am afraid I will be Compelled into Disagreeable measures in this score.

[ *A portion of the letter is here torn off .* ]

I have now finished this letter at last, making one request that you attend to my Dear Little Rachel and soothe her in my absence. If she should want anything get it for her if you can and you shall be amply rewarded.

Make my Compliments to Mrs. [ *torn* ] and all friends and fellow citizens and believe me to be your undisguised friend